

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /079 W
-----043333 311301Z /43

O 311245Z AUG 78 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2359

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: TALKING POINTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

REF: USUN 3362

1. ONCE AGAIN PRETORIA FIVE IS BEING ASKED TO MAKE ORAL RPT ORAL PRESENTATION OF DETAILED AND CAREFULLY WORDED "TALKING POINTS" TO SAG OFFICIALS WHO HAVE SHOWN INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATION AND SUSPICION (JUST LIKE OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS) AT OUR REFUSAL EVEN TO LEAVE THEM "NON-PAPER" LET ALONE AIDE MEMOIRE OR "BOUT DE PAPIER" TO SAVE THEM TROUBLE OF VERBATIM NOTE-TAKING. ON THE LAST FEW OCCASIONS BOTHA OR FOURIE HAVE CALLED IN SHORTHAND TYPIST AND ASKED US TO READ AT DICTATION SPEED SO THEY WOULD HAVE AN ACCURATE RECORD. AT ONE SESSION BOTHA ASKED WESTERN SPOKESMAN (GERMAN AMBASSADOR EICK) TO USE DICTAPHONE SO THEY COULD STUDY OUR REPRESENTATION.

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2. IF IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE BE SO PRECISE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE ANY ADVANTAGE IN REFUSING TO PUT ANYTHING IN WRITING. WHILE IT IS TRUE WE DO NOT WANT TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION WHICH CAN BE USED TO BOLSTER CLAIMS TO AGREEMENT WHERE AGREEMENT DOES NOT EXIST, SUCH CAREFULLY RECORDED ORAL EXCHANGES DO NOT LEAVE MUCH LEEWAY FOR CLAIMING WE DID NOT MEAN SOMETHING

AS IT WAS TAKEN. AND UNDER FOI/GDS PROCEDURES, HISTORY WILL SOON RECORD WHAT WAS SAID ANYWAY. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD SEEM FAR PREFERABLE TO GIVE THE FIVE A BASIC LINE IT CAN PRESENT IN WRITING, PLUS AN ADDED POINT OR TWO THAT CAN BE MADE MORE CASUALLY IN CONVERSATION FOLLOWING THE BASIC PRESENTATION, IF INDEED THERE ARE CERTAIN POINTS THAT ARE SO SENSITIVE THAT THEY CAN ONLY BE MADE ORALLY.

3. SINCE WE ARE STILL AWAITING DEPARTMENT'S GO-AHEAD ON AD REFERENDUM POINTS IN REFTTEL, IT IS SUGGESTED DEPT ALSO ADVISE WHICH, IF ANY, PARTS OF REFTTEL POINTS MAY BE LEFT WITH DFA IN WRITING, KEEPING IN MIND THAT WITH ABSENCE OF BOTHA AND FOURIE IN NEW YORK, WE WILL BE DEALING WITH NEXT LEVEL DOWN.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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